

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /052 W

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R 100512Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9284

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EALR, ELAB, ECON, AS

SUBJECT: OCTOBER UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

REF: CANBERRA 7363 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER, RELEASED NOVEMBER 5, SHOW NO SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS MONTH. UNADJUSTED NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED AT END OF OCTOBER 261,990 REPRESENTED 4.36 PERCENT OF ESTIMATED WORK FORCE OF 6.0 MILLION. THIS WAS marginally LOWER THAN 264,305 FIGURE AT END OF SEPTEMBER. PRINCIPAL IMPROVEMENT REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAD INCREASED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TO 5.3 PERCENT LEVEL IN SEPTEMBER, BUT RECEDED TO 5.2 PERCENT AT END OF OCTOBER.

2. MARGINAL NATURE OF REDUCTION IN REGISTERED UNEMPLOYE DURING OCTOBER FURTHER ILLUMINATED BY FACT THAT DURING SAME MONTH OVER 1,000 RECENT SCHOOL GRADUATES PLACED IN JOBS UNDER NEWLY ADOPTED SPECIAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM (SYETP) UNDER WHICH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES SUBSIDY OF SLIGHTLY

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UNDER 50 PERCENT OF EMPLOYERS' WAGE PAYMENT.

3. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF THE SYETP, GOA HAS RESISTED ADOPTION OF ANY DIRECT EMPLOYMENT STIMULATION PROGRAMS, DESPITE PRESSURE FROM OPPOSITION AS WELL AS CERTAIN BUSINESS AND LOCAL BACKBENCH SOURCES. THESE PRESSURES WILL INCREASE IN COMING MONTHS AS UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BEGIN TO REFLECT IMPACT OF NEW SCHOOL GRADUATES FOLLOWING END OF SCHOOL YEAR IN DECEMBER. HARGROVE

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